



SPACE ADVENTURES

EXTRA!!

the BLUE BEETLE

RETURNS!!!

SPACE ADVENTURES

presents

No 13

THE

BLUE BEETLE

Daily

Record

10c

★ ★ EXTRA ★

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A CHARLTON PUBLICATION

BLUE BEETLE RETURNS!!

his art was on both those from in which a new departure seems invariably guaranteed to cause antagonism technique and subject-matter. His pictures consistently castigated were like "unfinished incompetence," "paralleled ignorance elementary principles themes from considered "ins of offensive vulgarity."

THE lesson to be learned, of course, is that those few whose comments seem today perceptive and which the "insane men" of the future, to teach. The "insane" who made understand the and thus to judge, complied on it. They were able to more corner and will forms the with appropriate recognition of his tiny movements, and to the forcefulness of his

One disregards naturally the vulgar echoes the crowd's is interesting to notice how frequently even those were unfavorable. Manet's work basic talent and fluency. Manet and the some of his tried to explain this. In fact, the of this man

BLUE BEETLE HERO MURDER IN THE RING!!!

that pro or con or equivocal, the comment is at least recognize the importance of this controversial label. The avant-garde



BLUE BEETLE STRIKES AGAIN Fear Grips Underworld

convoys, distributor of forged passports. And, apart from a miserable haul of his brewed "all the dark lined up solidly with the Pim- and with the persecuted. Police would flash German raid- have loans with- or signature to transport of refugees up down the coast to waiting fighters, ships or rowboats. Danes and poor handed rescue agents on the

constructing this new art of epic style. His tends to ramble and occasionally get lost in vagueness. Nevertheless the courage of those who defied the Ger- and those whom the water and his friends snatched from the Germans, comes shining through. In its understated and discursive man-

Sing Sing, if he had wanted to check with him, would have pointed out that Sing Sing has never had a serious riot and that "approximately 10 per cent of its inmates benefit from Sing Sing's rehabilitation program." Sing says a "national" organization, a national organization, a national organization devoted to prison improvement. The organization arose to Borden and new employees down on Street, as well as to of other distinguished indicated Americans who were active indeed in efforts toward prison reform and in getting ex-cons adjusted to freedom. He is, and is active in the field, feel the states of New York, California and the Federal system offer a bright outlook for the future of American prisons.

It is a pity that Mr. characterizes psychology (for criminals) as "alchemy," that he refers to "Freudian lingo," that he writes that group therapy ends up in "gripe sessions," and that he repeats the hoary cliché about "the will study the psychiatrists." This sort of talk, from an otherwise responsible writer, serves only to add fuel to today's already too popular anti-intellectualism.

Seek Assassin Body in River

Police launched a helicopter search of the East River yesterday for the body of a former temporary policeman who leaped from the Brooklyn Bridge about 11 A.M. Papers in the car he drove near the center of the city identified him as Garvey, 47, a typographer, of 145 St. Brooklyn, who served with the Navy in 1940.

St. Garvey, 47, of 145 St. Brooklyn, said his brother had been dependent since the death of his wife, Matilda, last March 17, and had complained of stomach pains.

Finns Nab 2 More As Russian Spies

Two more Finns have been arrested on charges of spying for the Soviet Union, Finnish security police said today. Ten others are already in custody on similar charges. They were arrested in Finland after police claimed to have seen them flash Soviet signals across the Soviet frontier.



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SPACE ADVENTURES

DAN GARRET, ROOKIE COP, AND MIKE MANNIGAN, HIS OLD-LINE BUDDY, WORK OUT ONE NIGHT AT A GYM, UNAWARE THAT THEY ARE GOING TO WITNESS

MURDER IN THE RING!

YOU BETTER PRACTICE ON THE BAG FOR AWHILE, DAN! YOU NEED QUITE A BIT OF UNLIMBERING!

ALL RIGHT, MIKE!

THERE'S JOAN MASON OVER THERE, DAN! PROBABLY DOWN HERE FOR SOME KIND OF FEATURE ARTICLE! SHE'S TALKING TO A COUPLE OF THE FIGHTERS, AND THAT MANAGER, BILL HOOLEY!

YEAH... PUFF... JOAN... SURE GETS AROUND.

I MADE THAT FALL LOOK PRETTY GOOD! MIKE'S PRIDE IS ALL SWELLED UP, AND HE REALLY THINKS HE CAN HIT HARD ENOUGH TO KNOCK ME DOWN! IF HE ONLY KNEW HE WAS HITTING THE BLUE BEETLE!

SUDDENLY, ABOVE THE CAT-CALLS OF THE GYM AND THE SOUND OF SMACKING LEATHER, DAN AND MIKE HEARD THE CRISP WORD... **MURDER** DRIFT ACROSS THE GYM...

A MINUTE LATER...

DAN GARRET, MIKE MANNIGAN, TWO OF THE BOYS FROM OUR POLICE FORCE! THIS IS BILL HOOLEY, FIGHT MANAGER, FIGHTER MCCOY, A FINE FIGHTER WHO'S MAKING A COMEBACK, AND BOB MURPHY, A NEW HAND AT THE GAME.

I'M DOWN HERE ON A STORY! FOR THE MOMENT, I'M HOLDING UP ON IT! SUPPOSE YOU TELL THEM WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT, MR HOOLEY!

DID YOU HEAR WHAT I HEARD, MIKE?

FUNNY THING DAN, BUT I THINK ONE OF THOSE FIGHTERS TALKING TO JOAN SAID IT! LET'S HEAD OVER THERE AND SEE WHAT'S GOING ON!

SOMEBODY THREATENED TO KNOCK OFF FIGHTER MCCOY HERE! HE'S PART OF MY STABLE!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING DOWN HERE, JOAN, AND DID WE HEAR SOMEBODY SAY SOMETHING ABOUT MURDER?

I GOT A PHONE CALL! ONE OF THESE ANONYMOUS ONES! FELLA TOLD ME THAT FIGHTER MCCOY, MY BOY WHO'S TRAINING FOR A COMEBACK, BETTER TOSS HIS NEXT FIGHT... TAKE A DIVE INTO THE TANK! THEY SAID DIVE OR ELSE! AND THAT OR ELSE... MEANS **MURDER!**

A GAMBLING SYNDICATE MUST BE BETTING ON MCCOY'S OPPONENT IN MY FIGHTER'S FIRST COMEBACK FIGHT, AND THEY WANT TO MAKE IT A SURE THING!

WHAT DO YOU SAY, FIGHTER? WANT PROTECTION? MAYBE YA OUGHT TO THROW THE FIGHT AND SAVE YER SKIN? WHAT DO YOU SAY?

NO! I DON'T NEED POLICE PROTECTION...

I GOT MY OWN TWO FISTS! I NEVER THREW A FIGHT BEFORE AND I'M NOT STARTING NOW!

MAYBE YOU OUGHT TO ASK FOR POLICE PROTECTION!

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A MOMENT LATER...

SOMETHING SOUNDS STRANGE ABOUT ALL THAT BUSINESS, JOAN!

THANKS, JOAN!

I KNOW! IT DOESN'T SOUND RIGHT TO ME EITHER, DAN! I'M GOING TO HOLD UP ON THE STORY UNTIL I SEE WHAT HAPPENS! HERE ARE TWO PRESS TICKETS FOR MCCOY'S FIGHT, IF YOU WANT TO GO!

WHEN DAN GARRET AND MIKE MANNIGAN LEFT THE GYM...

LET'S MAKE IT A SURE THING AND SEE THAT FIGHT TOMORROW NIGHT, MIKE!

SURE, ME BOY, WE CAN MANAGE IT! WE'LL BE PULLING DUTY IN THE PATROL CAR UNTIL SIX TOMORROW EVENING, AND AFTER THAT WE CAN MAKE THE FIGHT!

THE NEXT DAY, DAN AND MIKE CRUISED THE CITY IN THEIR PATROL CAR...

CALLING CAR 23! CALLING CAR 23! GO TO BLEEKER AND TWENTY THIRD STREETS IMMEDIATELY! THIEVES ARE REPORTED BREAKING INTO THE CITY DAIRY THERE! CAR 23! GO TO...

THAT'S US, DAN! GET THE SIREN GOING AND TAKE OFF!

OKAY, MIKE!

THIS IS A JOB FOR THE BLUE BEETLE! BUT HOW CAN I GET AWAY FROM MIKE AND INTO MY BEETLE COSTUME WITHOUT HIS DISCOVERING MY SECRET IDENTITY AS THE BEETLE? I'VE GOT TO ACT FAST!

A MOMENT LATER, DAN SPIED A NAIL ON THE CITY STREET...

FASTER, DAN, FASTER! WE WANT TO GET THERE BEFORE THOSE CROOKS GET AWAY!

WAIT! THAT NAIL IN THE ROAD! IF I CAN JUST DRIVE THE PATROL CAR OVER IT SO THAT A TIRE WILL BE PUNCTURED, I CAN LEAVE MIKE AND BECOME THE BLUE BEETLE!

DAN! IT'S A BLOWOUT! GET THE CAR OVER TO THE SIDE OF THE ROAD!

SHE'S SKIDDING, MIKE!

SECONDS LATER...

ALL RIGHT, CABBIE, GET THIS HACK OVER TO TWENTY-THIRD AND BLEEKER STREETS! THERE'S A ROBBERY THERE! ON THE DOUBLE! DAN GET THAT TIRE CHANGED AND FOLLOW ME IN THE PATROL CAR! WE'VE GOT NO TIME TO LOSE!

ALL RIGHT, MIKE!

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DAN LOCKED THE PATROL CAR, AND DUCKED INTO A CONVENIENT ALLEY, WHERE HE WAS HIDDEN FROM THE EYES OF ONLOOKERS...

SECONDS LATER, A BLUE STREAK WHIZZED THROUGH THE CITY STREET, THE BLUE BEETLE WAS ON HIS WAY TO DO BATTLE AGAINST CRIME...

AS THE BLUE BEETLE HURTLIED ACROSS THE CITY TOWARDS THE DAIRY, THE CROOKS WERE STEALING THE PAYROLL AND THE DAY'S RECEIPTS...

THERE'S NO TIME TO WASTE! I'LL BECOME THE BLUE BEETLE FAST, AND GET OVER TO THAT DAIRY ON TWENTY-THIRD AND BLEECKER STREETS! THOSE ARMED CROOKS ARE LIABLE TO KILL INNOCENT PEOPLE IN THAT CROWDED NEIGHBORHOOD.

THIS WAY, I'LL BEAT MIKE TO THAT DAIRY...

I'LL HAVE ALL THE IRON MEN OUTTA THIS SAFE IN A COUPLA SECONDS!

SPEED IT UP, JOE! I WANNA GET OUT TO THE CAR AND TAKE OFF!

IF I CAN JUST GET MY HANDS ON THAT MILK BOTTLE, THAT'S WEIGHTED WITH LEAD FOR A PAPER WEIGHT, MAYBE I CAN BREAK UP THIS PARTY!

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GET AWAY WIT... AGH! MY ARM!

TRY THAT ONCE MORE, AND I'LL PUT THE NEXT SLUG RIGHT BETWEEN YOUR EYES!

COME ON, SPIKE! I GOT ALL THE CASH FROM THAT SAFE! IT MUST BE AROUND THIRTY GRAND! LET'S GET TO THE CAR!

RIGHT WIT YA, JOE! IF EITHER ONE OF YA GUYS SQUEALS FOR THE COPS, I'LL BLAST YA!

IT'S THE SIGN OF THE BLUE BEETLE! WHERE DID HE COME FROM?

THE BLUE BEETLE! COME ON, LET'S GET INTO THE CAR, AND GET OUTTA HERE!

YOU DON'T CATCH ME HANGING AROUND HERE, HAUL OR NO HAUL, I'M BEATING IT!

I'M GETTING OUTTA HERE! YOU GUYS CAN HAVE THE CASH! I DON'T WANT TO TANGLE WIT' THE BLUE BEETLE!

THAT DIRTY RAT! HE'S PULLING OUT AND LEAVING US TO THE BLUE BEETLE! YOU TAKE OFF ONE WAY, JOE, AND I'LL GO THE OTHER!

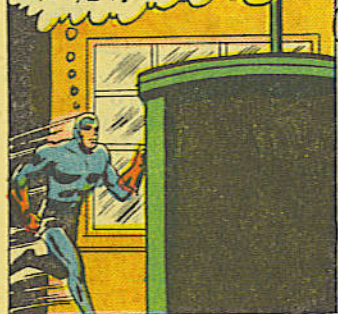
IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE!

GOING TO HAVE TO WORK FAST IF I'M GOING TO CATCH ALL OF THOSE CROOKS! BEST BET WOULD BE TO TAKE THE ONE IN THE CAR FIRST! HE'S GOT THE BEST CHANCE OF GETTING AWAY, AND THERE'S NOTHING BETTER THAN USING THE TOOLS OF THE DAIRY IN TRAPING HIM!

SPACE ADVENTURES

INSIDE THE DAIRY, THE BLUE BEETLE RACED TOWARDS A GIANT BUTTER CHURN...

THIS BUTTER CHURN OUGHT TO DO THE TRICK! IT'S FILLED RIGHT TO THE TOP WITH CREAM, AND THE MIXER HASN'T GONE TO WORK ON IT YET!



NOW, SPINNING MY ARM AROUND AS FAST AS POSSIBLE, WORKING FASTER AND WITH MORE POWER THAN THE MECHANICAL MIXER POSSIBLY COULD, I'LL WHIP THIS CREAM UP INTO BUTTER IN A MATTER OF SECONDS! THEN... I'LL GREASE THE ROADS TO THE JAILHOUSE FOR THAT CROOK DRIVING THE GETAWAY CAR!



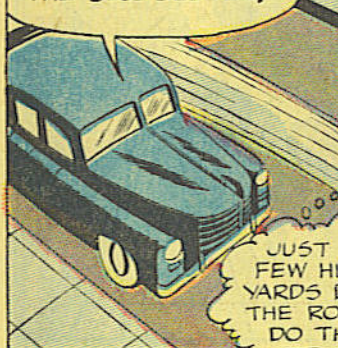
TAKING TWO GIANT HELPINGS OF THE BUTTER HE HAD MADE WITH HIS GREAT STRENGTH, THE BLUE BEETLE RACED OUT OF THE DAIRY...

WITH THIS BUTTER, MAYBE I'LL CATCH THE DRIVER! I'VE GOT TO GET OUT ON THE ROAD IN FRONT OF THE GETAWAY CAR. ONE BURST OF SPEED WILL DO THE TRICK!



SECONDS LATER, THE SPEEDING GETAWAY CAR WAS PASSED BY A STRANGE BLUE STREAK...

THAT BLUE STREAK CAN ONLY MEAN TROUBLE! CHANCES ARE, IT'S THE BLUE BEETLE!



AHEAD OF THE GETAWAY...

THIS THIN COATING OF BUTTER ON THE ROAD WILL PUT THAT CAR OUT OF CONTROL THE MOMENT IT HITS THIS STRETCH OF ROAD! ITS DRIVER WILL WANT NOTHING MORE THAN TO GET OUT OF THAT CAR IN ONE PIECE AND TURN HIMSELF OVER TO THE POLICE!



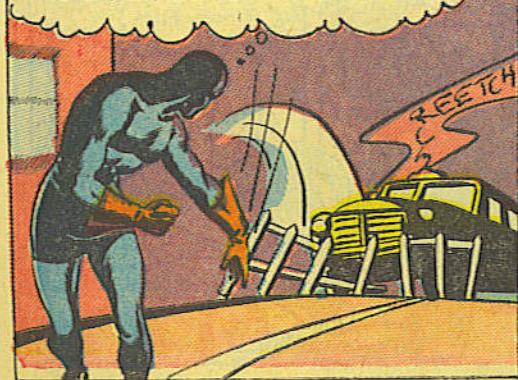
JUST A FEW HUNDRED YARDS DOWN THE ROAD WILL DO THE TRICK!

OH...OH! THE TAXI WITH MIKE MANNIGAN IS COMING FROM THE OTHER DIRECTION! I'LL HAVE TO ACT FAST OR THE TAXI WILL HIT THE BUTTERED STRETCH OF ROAD FIRST! WAIT! THAT PICKET FENCE WILL COME IN HANDY!

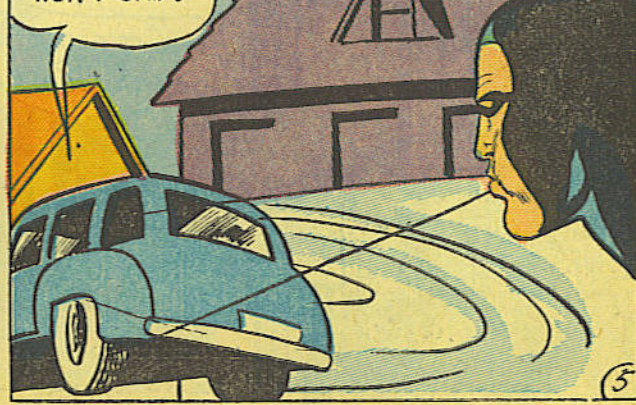


A MOMENT LATER, AND THE BLUE BEETLE BORROWED THE PICKET FENCE...

THIS WILL SAVE MIKE'S SKIN! I HOPE HE APPRECIATES IT! AND AT THE SAME TIME IT WILL CREATE A BARRIER AND GIVE ME A CHANCE TO ESCAPE AND CATCH THE OTHER CROOKS!



WHAT'S HAPPENING? HELP! HELP, I CAN'T CONTROL THE CAR! THE ROAD'S LIKE POLISHED GLASS! THE WHEELS WON'T GRIP!



WHEN THAT CAR STOPS SPINNING, THE THUG WON'T KNOW WHETHER HE'S COMING OR GOING!

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DIZZY! EVERYTHING'S WHIRLING AROUND AND AROUND! HOW DID IT HAPPEN? OOOPS... CAN'T STAND UP!

THIS IS SLIPPERY! GET YER HANDS UP! THAT GOES FOR YOU, TOO, BLUE BEETLE! HALT IN THE NAME OF THE LAW!

SORRY, OFFICER MANNIGAN, BUT I HAVEN'T THE TIME! I HAVE TO GET BACK TO THE DAIRY AND CATCH HIS ACCOMPLICES!

SPEEDING BACK TO THE MILK PLANT, THE BLUE BEETLE HEADED FOR THE BOTTLE ROOM...

THESE MILK BOTTLES WILL BE WORKABLE IN JUST A MINUTE, RED HOT FROM THE PRESSURE AND THE FRICTION OF MY HANDS ON THE GLASS! IN A MINUTE, THE GLASS WILL BE LIQUID AND I'LL BE ABLE TO WORK IT!



AS SOON AS THE GLASS REACHED THE PROPER TEMPERATURE, THE BLUE BEETLE TRIED HIS HAND AT GLASS BLOWING...

HE'S DOING A GOOD JOB OF GLASS BLOWING!

YOU COULD GET PLENTY OF MILK INTO THAT!

BUT IT'S NOT MILK THAT I'M GOING TO PUT INTO THIS! ONE TOUGH THUG IS GOING TO BE CAGED IN THIS GLASS FOR ALL THE WORLD TO SEE!

MOMENTS LATER, THE BLUE BEETLE RACED OUT OF THE DAIRY, CARRYING THE HUGE GLASS HE HAD MADE FROM THE MILK BOTTLES.

BLUE BEETLE, LET ME GO! I'LL GIVE MY SHARE OF THE LOOT BACK! I PROMISE!

IT'S TOO LATE FOR THAT! YOU HAVE TO BE SHOWN THAT CRIME DOESN'T PAY!

NO NO, DON'T DO IT... GULP! LET ME OUT, BEETLE!

WASN'T A BAD TOSS! NOW TO CATCH THE LAST THIEF!



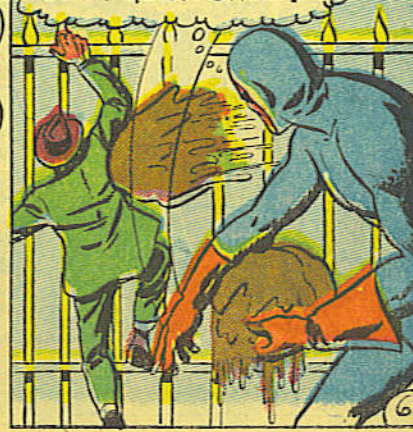
LET ME OUT! LET ME OUT! I DON'T WANNA END UP THIS WAY!

JUST A BIRD IN A GLASS CAGE! I'LL LEAVE YOU FOR MIKE TO POLICE UP WHILE I PUT THE CHILL ON YOUR BUDDY!

RACING BACK INTO THE DAIRY, THE BLUE BEETLE SCOOPED UP TWO HUGE GOBS OF ICE CREAM FROM THE FREEZER..

I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED WHAT KIND OF A SODA JERK I WOULD MAKE! NOW'S MY CHANCE TO FIND OUT BY MAKING A GIANT SIZE SUNDAE WITH A CROOK AS THE FILLING!

I'LL HAVE TO WORK FAST ON THIS ONE, BECAUSE MIKE IS GOING TO COME PUFFING UP ANY MINUTE! THIS WILL HAVE TO BE A QUICK CHILL!



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BRRR-R-R' I'M FREEZIN'! THIS STUFF IS MAKIN' ME LIKE AN ICICLE! CUT IT OUT, **BLUE BEETLE**, BRRR-R-R- THERE'S MY GUN!

HEY, BLUE BEETLE! STOP IN THE NAME OF THE LAW! I'LL TEACH YE TO INTERFERE WITH THE PROCESSES OF THE LAW! COME BACK HERE, ME BUCKO!

SORRY, OFFICER MANNIGAN! I'VE A DATE OF MY OWN TO KEEP!

HIS JOB AGAINST THE CRIMINALS FINISHED, THE BLUE BEETLE RACED BACK TO THE PATROL CAR...

SPEED IS IMPORTANT NOW! I'VE GOT TO GET THE SPARE ON, AND THEN JOIN MIKE, OR HE'LL BEGIN TO WONDER WHAT'S BEEN KEEPING ME!

ANOTHER BALL OF ICE CREAM AND THIS CRIMINAL SUNDAE WILL BE COMPLETE! IF I HAD THE TIME, I'D GO BACK TO THE DAIRY FOR SOME WHIPPED CREAM TOPPING!

A DATE WITH THE UNIFORM OF ROOKIE COP DAN GARRET, AND A PUNCTURED TIRE THAT HAS TO BE FIXED!

THE TIRE FIXED, THE BLUE BEETLE HURRIEDLY SWITCHED BACK INTO THE UNIFORM OF DAN GARRET, ROOKIE COP...

A FEW MINUTES LATER, DAN GARRET DROVE UP TO THE DAIRY TO BE CONFRONTED BY THE FURIOUS MIKE MANNIGAN...

MIKE'LL PROBABLY RAISE A ROW BECAUSE I WASN'T THERE TO HELP HIM CATCH THE BLUE BEETLE! HE GETS FURIOUS EVERY TIME THE BEETLE BEATS HIM AND CATCHES THE CROOKS BEFORE HE HAS A CRACK AT THEM!

C'MON, DAN, SHAKE A LEG! IT COULDN'T HAVE TAKEN YE ALL THIS TIME TO CHANGE THAT TIRE! LOOK AT THE MESS THE BLUE BEETLE THREW INTO MY HANDS! IF YOU'D BEEN HERE, WE COULD HAVE HAD HIM, TOO!

AFTER TURNING THE CROOK IN, DAN AND MIKE CRUISED THE CITY THE REST OF THAT DAY WITHOUT INCIDENT. THAT NIGHT, THEY WENT TO THE ARENA TO SEE FIGHTER MCCOY IN HIS COMEBACK FIGHT, USING THE PASSES GIVEN TO THEM BY JOAN MASON...

DAN, THAT FIGHTER IS PUTTING UP A GREAT FIGHT!

HE WOULD HAVE HAD HIM THAT ROUND, MIKE, IF THE BELL HADN'T CUT HIM SHORT!

LET ME OUTA THIS GLASS CAGE! I'LL GO STRAIGHT! I'LL DO ANYTHING!

BRRR-R! FREEZING!

DIZZY... WHERE... AM... I...

BETWEEN ROUNDS, DAN NOTICED A STRANGE THING HAPPENING...

THAT JOAN MASON'S A GREAT GIRL FOR GETTING US THESE PASSES, DAN!

SHE'S A GOOD KID, AND A GOOD REPORTER, MIKE!

THAT'S FUNNY! WONDER WHY HOOLEY IS CHANGING MOUTHPIECES ON FIGHTER MCCOY! THE BOXER'S USUALLY WEAR THE SAME MOUTHPIECE RIGHT THROUGH THE FIGHT!

IN THE FOURTH ROUND, FIGHTER MCCOY CAUGHT A LIGHT TAP TO THE JAW, A DESPERATE BLOW THROWN BY HIS OPPONENT...

DID YOU SEE THE FIGHTER LAUGH OFF THAT TAP TO THE JAW? HE GOT THIS GUY GOING SO BAD, HE CAN'T EVEN LAND A DECENT PUNCH!

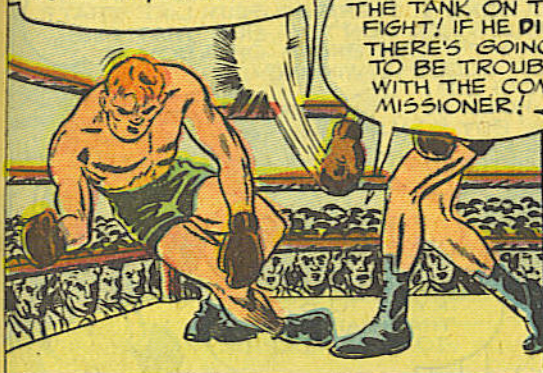
THIS FIGHT WILL PROBABLY MEAN A NEW CAREER FOR THE FIGHTER, MIKE! OR A LOT OF TROUBLE, IF THAT PHONE CALL ABOUT TAKING A DIVE MEANT ANYTHING!

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SUDDENLY, THE FIGHT TOOK A STRANGE TURN...

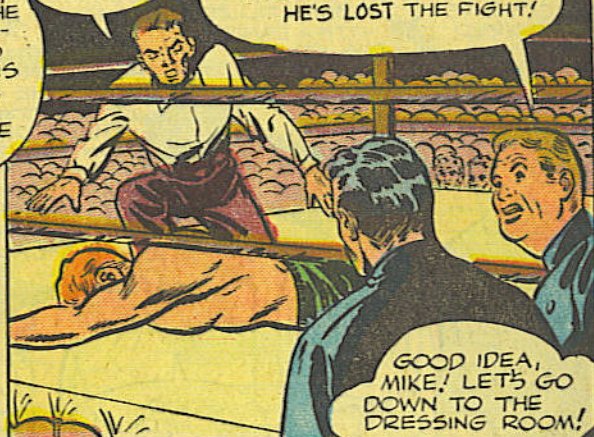
WHAT'S HAPPENED, DAN? ALL OF A SUDDEN, THE FIGHTER IS ACTING LIKE HE DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON! COME ON, FIGHTER!

MAYBE THIS IS AN ACT AFTER ALL, MIKE! MAYBE THE FIGHTER DID DECIDE TO GO INTO THE TANK ON THIS FIGHT! IF HE DID, THERE'S GOING TO BE TROUBLE WITH THE COMMISSIONER!



SIX... SEVEN... EIGHT... NINE... TEN...

THAT WAS A QUEER ONE! MAYBE WE OUGHT TO LOOK INTO THIS ONE, DAN! THE FIGHTER WAS WAY AHEAD AND ALL OF A SUDDEN, HE'S LOST THE FIGHT!



GOOD IDEA, MIKE! LET'S GO DOWN TO THE DRESSING ROOM!

DAN AND MIKE MADE THEIR WAY TO THE UNDERGROUND DRESSING ROOM...

THIS MAN WILL NEVER FIGHT AGAIN! HE'S DEAD! THERE'LL HAVE TO BE AN AUTOPSY AND AN INVESTIGATION!

DEAD?

HELLO, DAN, MIKE! LOOKS LIKE HE PUT UP A GALLANT FIGHT, BUT HIS HEART COULDN'T TAKE IT!



I WONDER IF THIS HAS ANY CONNECTION WITH THAT PHONE CALL YOU RECEIVED, MR. HOOLEY, ABOUT FIGHTER'S THROWING THE FIGHT... OR ELSE

I DON'T SEE HOW IT COULD!

LATER...

STRANGE BUSINESS, MIKE! THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THE WHOLE THING THAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND!

AW FORGET IT, DAN! YOU ROOKIE COPS ARE ALWAYS LOOKING TO MAKE A CASE OF SOME KIND WHEN NOTHING EXISTS!



THAT'S FUNNY! THERE'S A TINY PIN-PRICK IN HIS UPPER LIP AND A DROP OF BLOOD. WHY HAVE THE LIPS TURNED BLUE SO QUICKLY?

THE NEXT NIGHT AT SORLEY'S GYM...

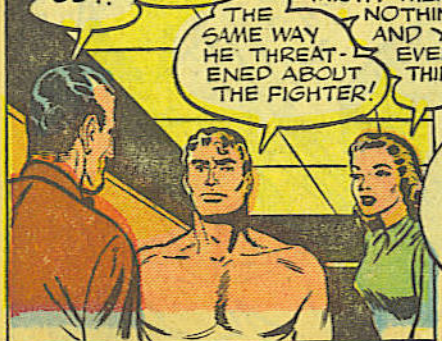
YEAH! THE SAME GUY TELEPHONED! HE TOLD ME THAT BOB MURPHY HERE HAS GOT TO DROP HIS FIGHT BECAUSE THEY'RE BETTING ON THE OTHER GUY!

AND YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE FIGHTER! AN UN-EXPLAINED DEATH THAT MIGHT MEAN

THE SAME WAY HE THREAT-ENED ABOUT THE FIGHTER!

LOOK, KID, I DON'T WANT ANOTHER ONE OF MY FIGHTERS GETTING KILLED ON ME! MAYBE YA BETTER DROP THIS ONE FIGHT, AND I'LL MAKE IT UP OUTTA MY OWN POCKET TO YA!

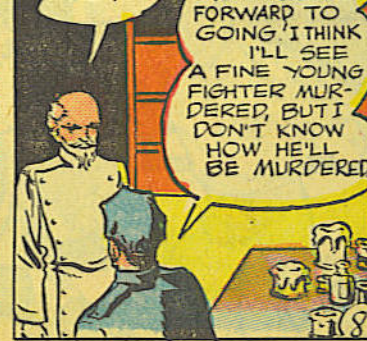
NO, THANKS, MR. HOOLEY! I DON'T THINK THE FIGHTER EVER QUIT ON A FIGHT, AND I'M NOT GOING TO, EITHER! I'M FIGHTING TO WIN, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS.



THE NIGHT OF THE FIGHT, DAN GARRET WENT TO SEE DR. KRANZ IN HIS APOTHECARY SHOP...

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND, DAN? YOU LOOK WORRIED! SOMETHING TROUBLING YOU?

JOAN GAVE MIKE AND ME TICKETS FOR A FIGHT TONIGHT! I'M NOT LOOKING FORWARD TO GOING! I THINK I'LL SEE A FINE YOUNG FIGHTER MURDERED, BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW HE'LL BE MURDERED!



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OUCH! THAT WAS SHARP!

WAIT! THAT'S THE WAY FIGHTER MCCOY WAS MURDERED! THE PIN PRICK!

AHHH, DAN, YOU'RE GETTING CARELESS! THAT HYPO MIGHT HAVE BEEN FILLED WITH A DANGEROUS POISON! LUCKILY, IT'S HARMLESS STUFF!

SO LONG, DR KRANZ! I HAVE TO GET TO THAT FIGHT ON TIME! I THINK I'M GOING TO SEE A MURDERER TRY TO KILL A BOXER TONIGHT. AND IF HE DOES, HE'LL GIVE ME THE PROOF TO SEND HIM TO THE CHAIR!

THE DROP OF BLOOD ON FIGHTER'S LIP... THE TINY HOLE IN THE SKIN! BUT HOW WAS THE POISON ADMINISTERED?

GOOD- LUCK, DAN!

A SHORT TIME LATER, DAN GARRET AND MIKE MANNIGAN WATCHED BOB MURPHY POUND HIS OPPONENT...

COME ON, DAN, MY BOY! LET'S HAVE A CHEER FOR BOB MURPHY! WHY YE SITTING THERE SO GLUM LIKE THAT? DON'T YE SEE THAT FINE BROTH OF A BOY IS WINNING!

FIGHTER MCCOY WAS WINNING HIS FIGHT, TOO, MIKE BUT HE LOST! I'M TRYING TO STOP THAT HAPPENING TO BOB MURPHY!

BETWEEN ROUNDS OF THE FIGHT WHICH BOB MURPHY WAS WINNING EASILY...

YER A SPOIL SPORT, DAN! YOU ROOKIE'S CAN NEVER ENJOY YOURSELVES! ALWAYS THINKING OF MURDER AND LOOKING FOR ONE!

THAT'S IT, MIKE! THE MOUTHPIECE! THAT'S HOW FIGHTER MCCOY WAS MURDERED, AND THAT'S HOW BILL HOOLEY IS GOING TO MURDER BOB MURPHY! COME ON, THERE'S NO TIME TO WASTE, MIKE!

HOLD IT UP, HOOLEY! PUT YOUR HAND DOWN! THE GAME IS UP!

THERE'S NOT ENOUGH TIME TO SWITCH TO THE BLUE BEETLE! I CAN'T POSSIBLY DO IT WITH ALL THESE THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WATCHING! I'D BE GIVING MY IDENTITY AWAY!

WHAT'S GOING ON, DAN? HAVE YOU SUDDENLY GONE DAFT?

STAY OUTTA THIS RING, GARRET! YER INTERFERING WHERE YA AIN'T WANTED! YER ONLY GONNA MAKE TROUBLE FOR YERSELF, ROOKIE! COME ON, BOB, OPEN YER MOUTH!

PUT THAT MOUTHPIECE DOWN, HOOLEY!

IF MY HUNCH IS RIGHT, HOOLEY, YOU'RE GOING TO FACE A MURDER RAP! IF I'M WRONG, I'M OUT OF A JOB!

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YER TALK. AGGHHH!

SMASH!

COME BACK HERE, DAN!

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GET HIM, MIKE! HE MURDERED FIGHTER MCCOY AND HE WAS TRYING TO MURDER BOB MURPHY! TONIGHT! RIGHT IN THIS RING BEFORE THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE, AND HE ALMOST GOT AWAY WITH IT! THIS MOUTHPIECE WILL PROVE I'M RIGHT!

I HOPE SO, FOR YOUR SAKE, DAN!

SECONDS LATER...

WAIT JUST A SECOND FOR ME! I'M GOING TO WIN THIS FIGHT, AND BY A KNOCKOUT! I WANT TO BE THERE WHEN YOU QUESTION HOOLEY! WAIT, AND WE'LL GO DOWN TO THE DRESSING ROOM TOGETHER!

GO TO IT, BOB! GOOD LUCK!

AS SOON AS THE BELL CLANGED, BOB MURPHY LEAPED OUT OF HIS CORNER LIKE A TIGER, AND RACED TO MEET HIS OPPONENT IN THE CENTER OF THE RING...

WHAT A BLOW!

HE RUINED ME! ALL THAT MONEY, GONE! HE RUINED ME!

IN THE DRESSING ROOM A FEW MINUTES LATER...

THIS IS THE MURDER WEAPON! A SMALL NEEDLE UNDER THE SPONGE RUBBER OF THE MOUTHPIECE! A SLIGHT TAP DRIVES THE NEEDLE RIGHT THROUGH THE RUBBER AND INTO THE LIP OF THE FIGHTER, INJECTING A DEADLY, QUICK-ACTING POISON!

WHY DID YOU DO THIS TO YOUR OWN FIGHTERS, HOOLEY? QUICK - BEFORE I JAB YOU WITH THIS NEEDLE AND GIVE YOU A TASTE OF YOUR OWN MEDICINE!

NO! NO! DON'T DO IT!

MONEY! I NEEDED MONEY BADLY! I FAKED THE PHONE CALLS TO MYSELF! I FIGURED THAT IF I COULD BET MY END OF THE PURSE ON THE SHORT ODDS FIGHTER I COULD CLEAN UP! FIRST, MCCOY TRIED TO CROSS ME UP, AND THEN MURPHY! I HAD TO KILL MCCOY AND TRY TO KILL MURPHY. I NEEDED THE MONEY!

HERE'S THE EVIDENCE, MIKE! I THINK YOU CAN RUN HIM IN NOW!

I'LL TAKE HIM IN, DAN! AND, DAN, THE NEXT TIME I GET READY TO GIVE YOU A TONGUE LACING FOR SOME OF YOUR MODERN IDEAS, I'LL THINK TWICE BEFORE I SPEAK UP! FOR A ROOKIE, THAT WAS PRETTY GOOD WORK!

GUESS I'M IN THE WAY AROUND HERE!

DAN, YOU WERE WONDERFUL! YOU'VE GIVEN ME A GREAT STORY! THIS IS A KISS I'VE BEEN SAVING UP TO GIVE THE BLUE BEETLE NEXT TIME I MEET HIM! BUT I THINK YOU DESERVE IT! THIS IS THE WAY YOU SHOULD BE ALL THE TIME, INSTEAD OF LIKE A FUMBLING, ROOKIE!

I COULD FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU, DAN, IF YOU'D BE THIS WAY ALL THE TIME!

AW, JOAN YOU DON'T REALIZE WHAT YOU'RE SAYING! I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING ELSE! DR KRANZ DESERVES SOME OF THE CREDIT, TOO! I GOT THE IDEA AT HIS PLACE!

IF JOAN ONLY KNEW THAT SHE JUST KISSED THE BLUE BEETLE!

AND I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SAY TO YOU, DAN!

GEE, JOAN, I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!

THE END

SPACE ADVENTURES

SGT. "BLAST" BAKER AND CORPORAL ASTRA ADAMS OF THE PLANET POLICE ANSWER A FRANTIC SPACE S.O.S., AND ZOOM INTO A **SPACE ADVENTURE** THAT'S FANTASTIC EVEN IN THE YEAR 1988, AS THEY BATTLE...

THE THING IN OUTER SPACE!

JUMPIN' JETS!
LOOK, SERGEANT
BLAST! THERE IT IS!
THE THING IN
OUTER SPACE!

HOLY HYDRO! IT'S LIKE
A GIANT OCTOPUS -- AN'
IT'S GOT A SPACELINER
IN ONE OF ITS TENTAC-
LES! LET'S MOVE IN
CLOSER AN' CLOBBER IT
WITH OUR COBALT
CANNON!

GOOD SHOOTIN',
ASTRA! YOU HIT THE
THING WITH YOUR
FIRST SALVO!

BUT SHIVERING
STARS, BLAST--
OUR SHELLS
ARE BOUNCING
OFF THE THING
LIKE PING-PONG
BALLS!



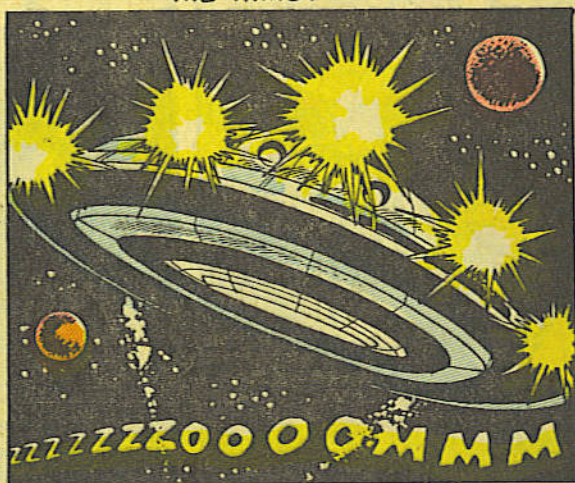
SPACE ADVENTURES

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO, SERGEANT BLAST? OUR ARTILLERY CAN'T STOP **THE THING**!

WE'LL TRY ONCE MORE, ASTRA -- WITH ALL CANNONS!



SGT. BLAST BAKER SWINGS HIS SPACER INTO ATTACK POSITION AGAIN ---AND THEN, WITH JETS WIDE OPEN AND ALL CANNONS BLAZING, HE STREAKS TOWARD **THE THING**!



THE HEAVENS TREMBLE AS BALLS OF FIRE EXPLODE AROUND **THE THING** AND ENVELOPE IT IN FLAMES ...

NOTHING COULD LIVE THRU THAT CLOBBERIN'!



NOTHING BUT **THE THING**! LOOK! IT'S STILL THERE!

GREAT JUPITER!



AN! THERE ISN'T A MARK ON IT!

IT'S TOO LATE TO HELP THAT SPACE-LINER NOW. IT'S CRUSHED AND TWISTED LIKE A ...



GREAT GALAXY! IT'S TOO LATE FOR US, TOO! **THE THING'S** GOT ONE OF HIS SUCTION TENTACLES AROUND OUR SPACER!

WE'RE TRAPPED IN HIS DEATH SQUEEZE!



SPACE ADVENTURES



LET'S
BAIL
OUT!

WE CAN'T, ASTRA!
THE **THING'S**
TENTACLE IS
WRAPPED AROUND THE
SHIP AN' IS BLOCKIN'
THE DOOR!



THEN IT'LL
CRUSH US
TO DEATH!

NO IT WON'T! BE-
CAUSE IT'S TAKING
US DOWN...TOWARD
A **STRANGE**
PLANET!



YOU'RE RIGHT!
IT PUT US
DOWN ON THE
WEIRD WORLD
AS GENTLY AS
IF WE'RE AN
EGG!

GET YOUR
AUTOMATIC
READY FOR
ACTION, ASTRA
--- WE'RE
GOIN' OUT!

SERGEANT BLAST BAKER OF THE PLANET POLICE KICKS OPEN THE DOOR---AND THE SIGHT HE SEES MAKES HIM TAKE A TIGHTER GRIP ON HIS AUTOMATIC...



WELCOME TO THE INVASION SPACE STATION OF
THE PLANET HELLA! IF YOU DO AS I SAY,
PLANET POLICEMAN---YOU WILL BE
MY GUEST!



AND IF NOT---
**YOU ARE MY
PRISONERS!**

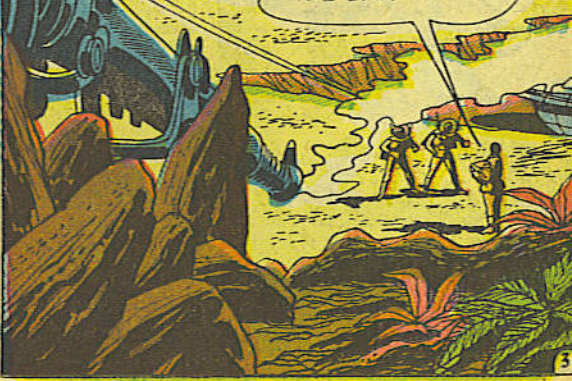
NOT AS LONG AS I'VE
GOT MY AUTOMATIC
IN MY FIST!

SUDDENLY SILENT SHOTS EXPLODE AND BLAST'S AND ASTRA'S AUTOMATICS DISAPPEAR FROM THEIR HANDS...



**GREAT
BLAZES!**
WHAT
WAS
THAT?

MY DISINTEGRATOR RAY BAZOOKA--WHICH
I FIRED BY REMOTE CONTROL WITH THIS
LITTLE BOX. IT IS THE WEAPON WITH
WHICH I SHALL CONQUER ALL THE
PLANETS OF THE UNIVERSE! AND THE
FIRST WORLD TO FALL WILL BE **YOUR**
PLANET, PLANET POLICEMAN--
THE EARTH!



SPACE ADVENTURES

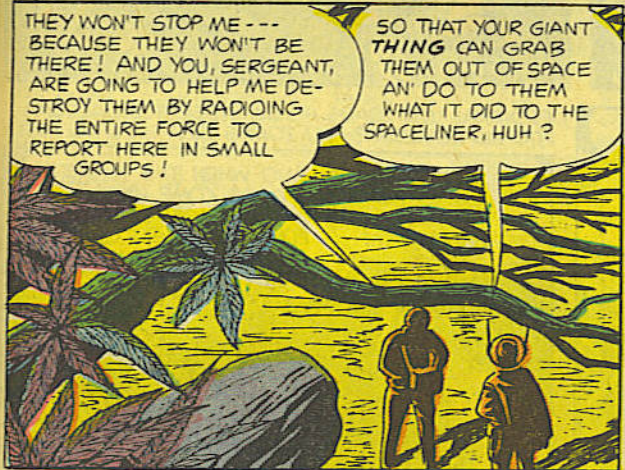
AFTER THAT, MARS, MERCURY, VENUS AND ALL THE OTHER PLANETS WILL FALL --AND I, GENERAL LOKI, WILL BE THE SUPREME KING OF EVERY WORLD IN THE UNIVERSE! I NEED NO ARMY--AND ONLY ONE GUN --THAT DISINTEGRATOR BAZOOKA!

YOU'RE GOOFIER THAN A GOONIE BIRD! THE PLANE POLICE FORCE'S RADAR NET WILL STOP YOU BEFORE YOU GET HALF WAY TO EARTH!



THEY WON'T STOP ME --- BECAUSE THEY WON'T BE THERE! AND YOU, SERGEANT, ARE GOING TO HELP ME DESTROY THEM BY RADIOING THE ENTIRE FORCE TO REPORT HERE IN SMALL GROUPS!

SO THAT YOUR GIANT THING CAN GRAB THEM OUT OF SPACE AN' DO TO THEM WHAT IT DID TO THE SPACELINER, HUH?



YES, SERGEANT! AND BEFORE YOU MAKE A HASTY REPLY --- OBSERVE BEHIND YOU!

ASTRA!



DON'T DO IT, SERGEANT BLAST! DON'T SEND THAT RADIO MESSAGE! IT'LL MEAN THE DEATH OF THE WHOLE PLANET POLICE FORCE!

AND IF HE DOESN'T SEND IT--- THE THING WILL SQUEEZE THE LIFE OUT OF YOU!



I DON'T CARE! PLEASE, SERGEANT BLAST, DON'T DO IT! PLEASE, DON'T!

HERE, SERGEANT! SUMMON THE PLANET POLICE INTO THE TRAP--- OR THE GIRL YOU LOVE DIES!



SERGEANT "BLAST" BAKER LOOKS AT THE MIKE -- THEN AT ASTRA IN THE SLIMY CLUTCHES OF THE THING-- AND HE MAKES HIS DECISION...

GIVE ME THAT MIKE!

YOU TRAITOR! SERGEANT BAKER---I DESPISE YOU!



SPACE ADVENTURES

GENERAL LOKI SMILES AS SERGEANT BLAST SPEAKS INTO THE MIKE ...



GENERAL LOKI LOADS HIS DISINTEGRATOR BAZOOKA INTO HIS SPACESHIP AND ZOOMS OFF THE SPACE STATION!



SPACE ADVENTURES

GENERAL LOKI GUIDES HIS DAMAGED SHIP FOR A BELLY LANDING ON THE SPACE STATION AND PILES UP...

HURRY, ASTRA! THAT CRASH MAY HAVE STUNNED THE GENERAL AND WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET OUR HANDS ON THAT DISINTEGRATOR BAZOOKA!

I HOPE SO! IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE TO SAVE THOSE PLANET POLICE SPACERS FROM THE THING!

OH-H! THE CRASH LANDING DIDN'T KNOCK HIM OUT!

BUT THIS LANDING WILL!

THERE! I'VE GOT THE THING NAILED IN MY SIGHTS!

FIRE, SERGEANT BLAST, BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

THE PLANET POLICE SERGEANT YANKS THE TRIGGER AND BOLTS OF BLAZING WHITE-HOT RAYS STAB INTO THE GIANT SPACE OCTOPUS WITH HEAVEN-SHAKING FURY...

TWO MORE SHOTS --- AND THE THING DISINTEGRATES COMPLETELY INTO A MASS OF BILLINGWING SMOKE...

BINGO! YOU GOT IT, SERGEANT! THE THING IS LETTING LOOSE THE PLANET POLICE SHIPS!

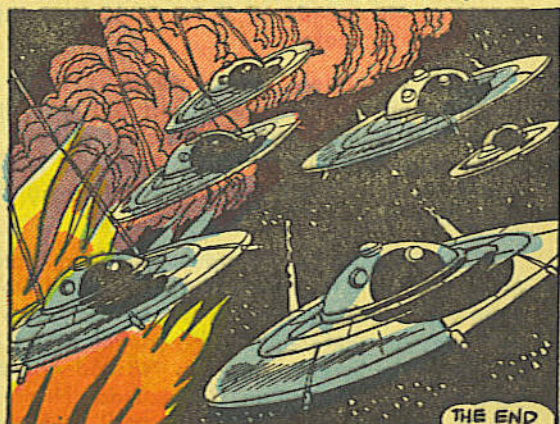


AND WHEN THE PLANET POLICE FORCE LANDS, THERE'S A HAPPY REUNION ...

WE DIDN'T CLOBBER THE SPACE-STATION AS YOU ORDERED, SERGEANT, BECAUSE THE THING WAS DESTROYED FROM HERE --- AND WE FIGURED THAT ONLY A FRIEND WOULD DO THAT FOR US!

YOU FIGURED RIGHT, CORPORAL --- AN' WE'RE SURE GLAD YOU DID!

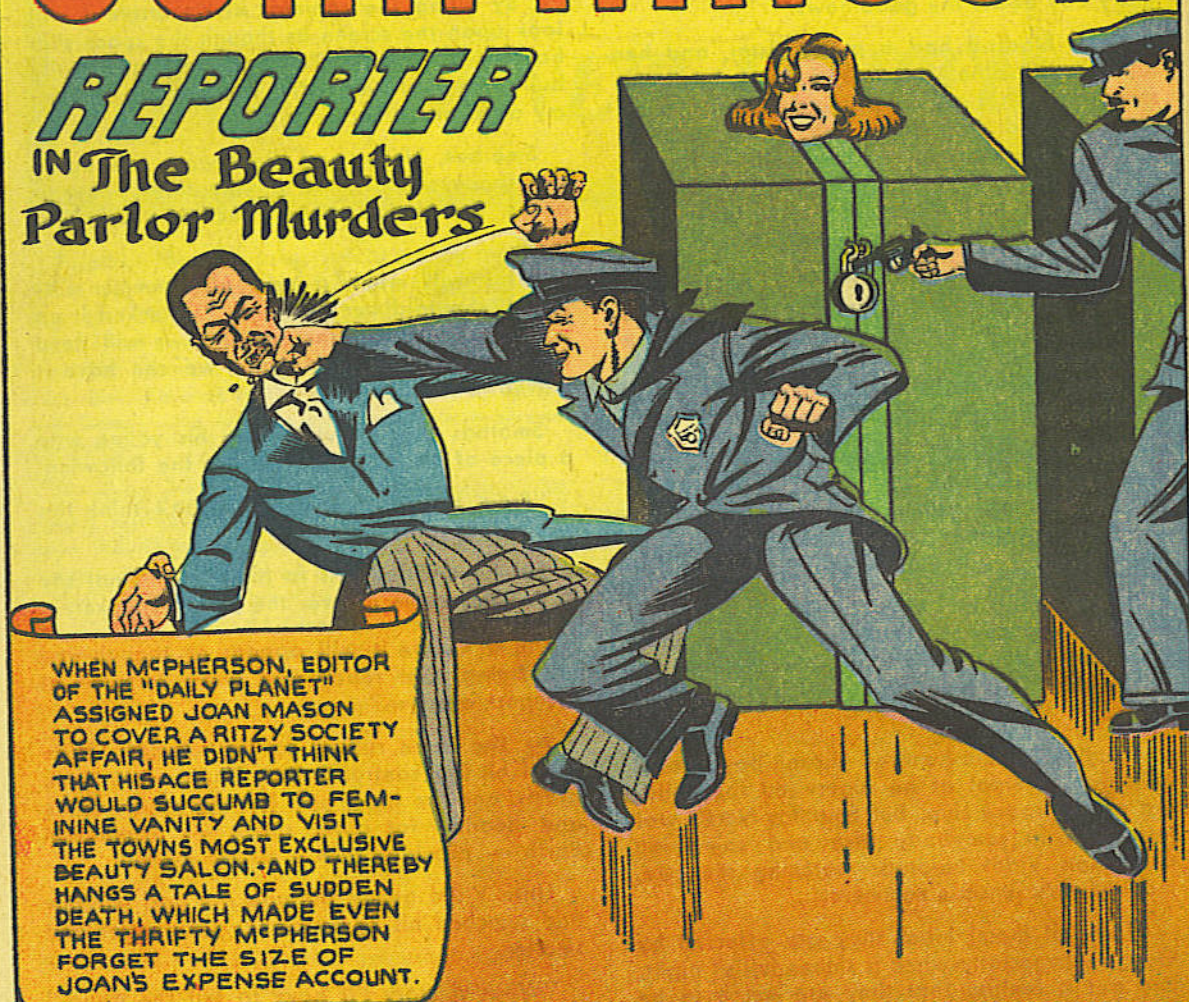
WITH THEIR PRISONER ABOARD AND THE INVASION SPACE STATION IN FLAMES TO MAKE IT USELESS, SERGEANT "BLAST" BAKER AND CORPORAL ASTRA ADAMS HEAD FOR HOME --- GRATEFUL TO BE ALIVE AFTER THE FANTASTIC SPACE ADVENTURE AGAINST THE THING IN OUTER SPACE!



THE END

JOAN MASON

REPORTER IN The Beauty Parlor Murders



AFTER SUCCESSFULLY WRANGLING THE ASSIGNMENT TO COVER SOCIETY'S BIGGEST EVENT FROM HER RELUCTANT EDITOR, JOAN MASON VISITS MME. LOUBERT'S BEAUTY SALON...

I WANT SOMETHING SPECIAL IN THE WAY OF A HAIR-DO. IF POSSIBLE THE "DORIC" STYLE!

YOU SHALL HAVE IT, MON CHERIE I'LL GET ANNETTE. STEP THIS WAY!

MAY I SUGGEST A MORE CONSERVATIVE COIFFURE, MADEMOISELLE. THE "DORIC" SWING WILL NOT SHOW YOU TO ADVANTAGE.

DO ANYTHING YOU THINK BEST, ANNETTE, AS LONG AS IT LOOKS GOOD.



SPACE ADVENTURES

THE MASTERPIECE COMPLETED, JOAN LEAVES THE SALON SOMEWHAT BEWILDERED

I'M AFRAID TO PUT MY HAT ON! ANNETTE SURE GAVE ME A SUPER-SPECIAL SPECIAL! \$50.--! WHEW! M'PHERSON WILL HAVE A FIT! .. OH, HERE COMES DAN!

HELLO, JOAN! YOU LOOK STUNNING! ARE YOU ENTERING A BEAUTY CONTEST?

FLATTERER! NO, I'M COVERING PARK AVENUE'S BOND RALLY TONIGHT. WHAT'S THIS? A WHITE PACKAGE... I DON'T KNOW HOW THAT GOT INTO MY POCKET BOOK!



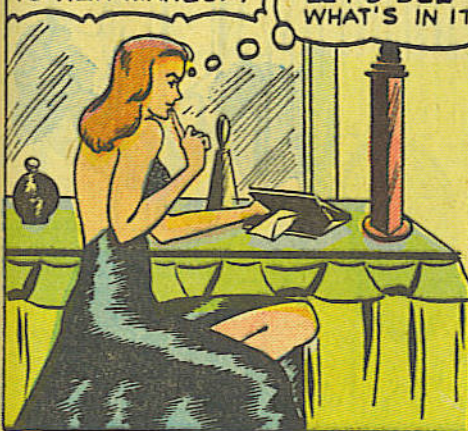
LATER THAT EVENING WHILE PUTTING THE FINISHING TOUCHES TO HER MAKEUP!

HERE'S THAT PACKAGE AGAIN! I DON'T REMEMBER-- WELL, LET'S SEE WHAT'S IN IT!

JOAN MAKES A STARTLING DISCOVERY----

WELL, I'LL BE -- IT'S COCAINE! THERE GOES MY CHANCE TO PLAY MISS SNOOTY!

'LO MAC! YOU'D BETTER GET SOMEBODY ELSE TO COVER THE MILLION DOLLAR RALLY! I BELIEVE I'VE STUMBLERED ON SOMETHING BIG! I'LL CALL YOU LATER!



REALIZING THE DIFFICULTY OF HER TASK, JOAN SEEKS DAN GARRET'S ADVICE ...

I THOUGHT YOU'D BE AT THE RITZ TONIGHT. WHAT'S COOKING, JOAN?

REMEMBER THE WHITE PACKAGE I FOUND IN MY BAG?-- YOU KNOW WHAT WAS IN IT? DOPE. COCAINE TO BE EXACT!

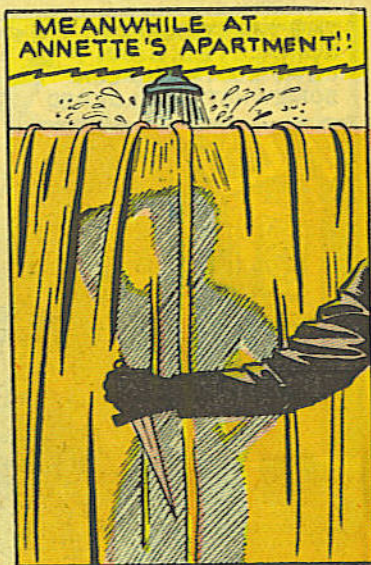
COCAINE? HOW DID THAT GET INTO YOUR BAG?

I GUESS IT WAS SLIPPED INTO MY BAG AT LOUBERT'S. BY A LUCKY COINCIDENCE I MUST HAVE GIVEN THE PASS-WORD. I WONDER HOW I CAN GET IN TOUCH WITH ANNETTE?

THAT'S WHY YOU WERE CHARGED DOUBLE! WHY NOT CALL MME. LOUBERT! SHE LIVES ABOVE HER SALON.



SPACE ADVENTURES



SPACE ADVENTURES



AND SHORTLY AFTER
MME. LOUBERT'S
TEMPLE OF BEAUTY
OPENS ITS PORTALS.

AHA, THE SIGNAL--
THAT MUST BE HER!



I HAVE AN
APPOINTMENT
WITH MME.
LOUBERT. WILL
YOU TELL HER
THAT MISS
MASON IS
HERE, PLEASE.

I'LL SEE
WHETHER
MME. LOUBERT
IS FREE. WILL
YOU STEP
IN HERE,
PLEASE.



BUT, I DON'T WANT
A MASSAGE, THIS
IS AN----

NO MASSAGE FOR
YOU, MISS MASON!
JUST A LITTLE
SWEATING!



LET ME GO
OR I'LL
SCREAM!

IF IT'LL MAKE YOU
HAPPY, GO AHEAD
AND YELL! THIS
ROOM IS SOUND-
PROOF!



I'LL GIVE YOU
A DORIC COIFFURE,
YOU BLASTED SNOOPER!



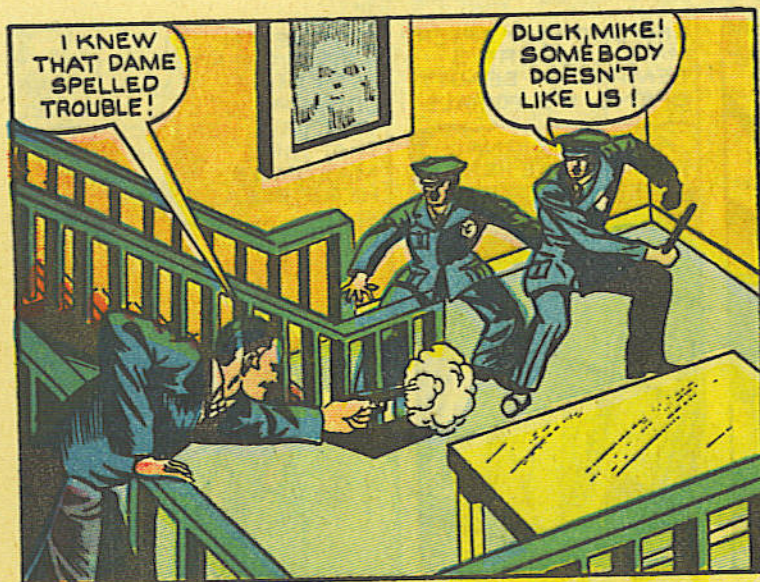
DAN AND MIKE, IMPATIENTLY WAITING
FOR JOANS SIGNAL AT THE SALON'S
BACK DOOR. GROW RESTLESS----

SHE'S IN HERE A
LONG TIME. MAYBE
SOMETHING WENT
WRONG!

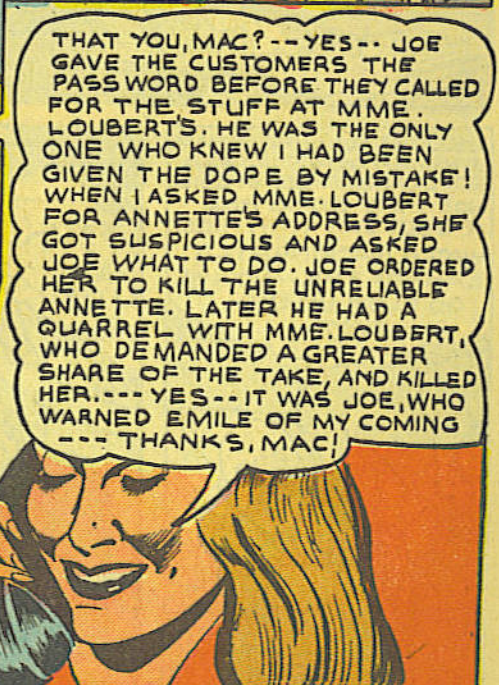
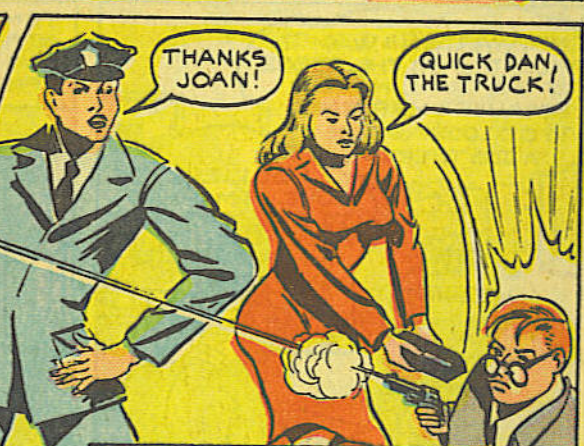
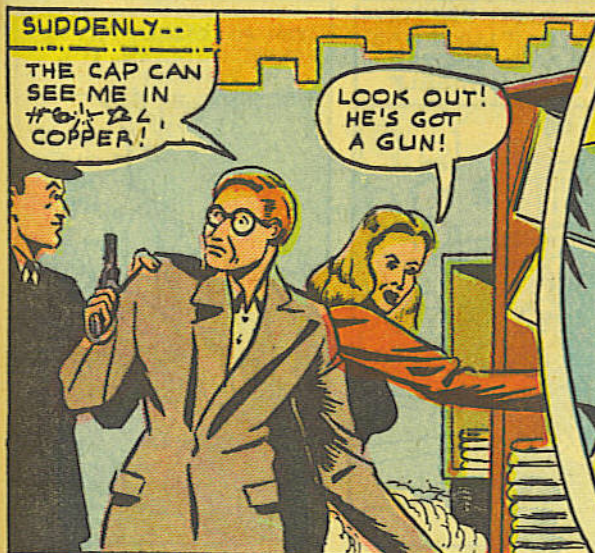
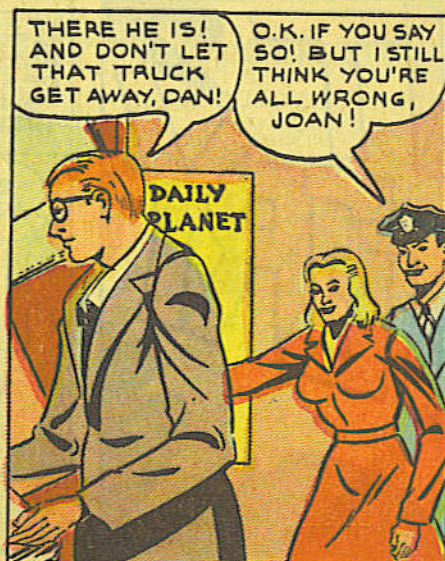
LOOKS THAT
WAY! COME ON,
WE'LL GO IN!



SPACE ADVENTURES



SPACE ADVENTURES



SPACE ADVENTURES

MINIT MYSTERY

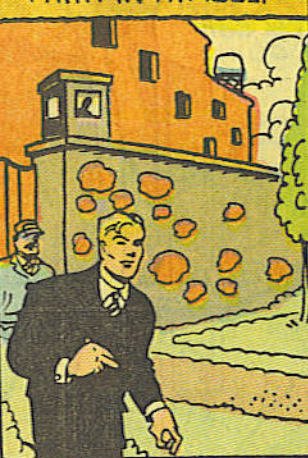
LUKE CHANDLER, EX-CONVICT ON PAROLE IS ARRESTED AS AN ACCOMPLICE IN THE ROBBERY OF A HUGE CONSIGNMENT OF SWISS WATCHES--WE SEE HIM BEING RETURNED TO THE PENITENTIARY



MR. WARDEN I WAS PICKED UP AT THE SCENE OF THE CRIME MERELY BECAUSE I HAPPENED TO BE LOOKING FOR A JOB THERE!



TEMPORARY FREEDOM AGAIN, BUT LUKE HAS NO PLANS--EXCEPT FAITH IN HIMSELF



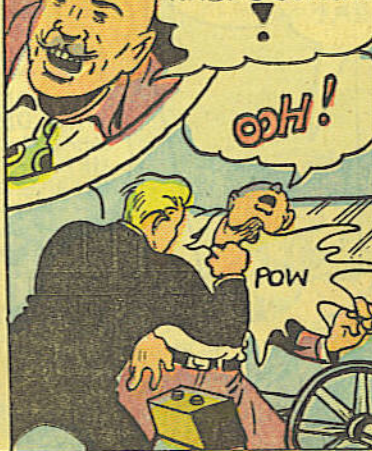
ON A LONELY ROAD JUST OUTSIDE THE PRISON



THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER MAKE IT HYMIE--DER FILE AND ROPE LADDER GOT YA OUID, NO? I GOT BOMB AND IT GOOT JOB WITH FINEST WATCH MACHINERY--IT CANNOT FAIL--NOW WE GO BLOW UP BIG-DAM!



SAY! YOU NOT HYMIE! I PICK UP WRONG CONVICT



CONGRATULATIONS, SON--YOU CLEARED YOURSELF--AND BROKE UP A RING OF SABOTEURS--THE WATCHES WERE STOLEN FOR THEIR MOVEMENTS TO MAKE THOSE BOMBS---THEY HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED



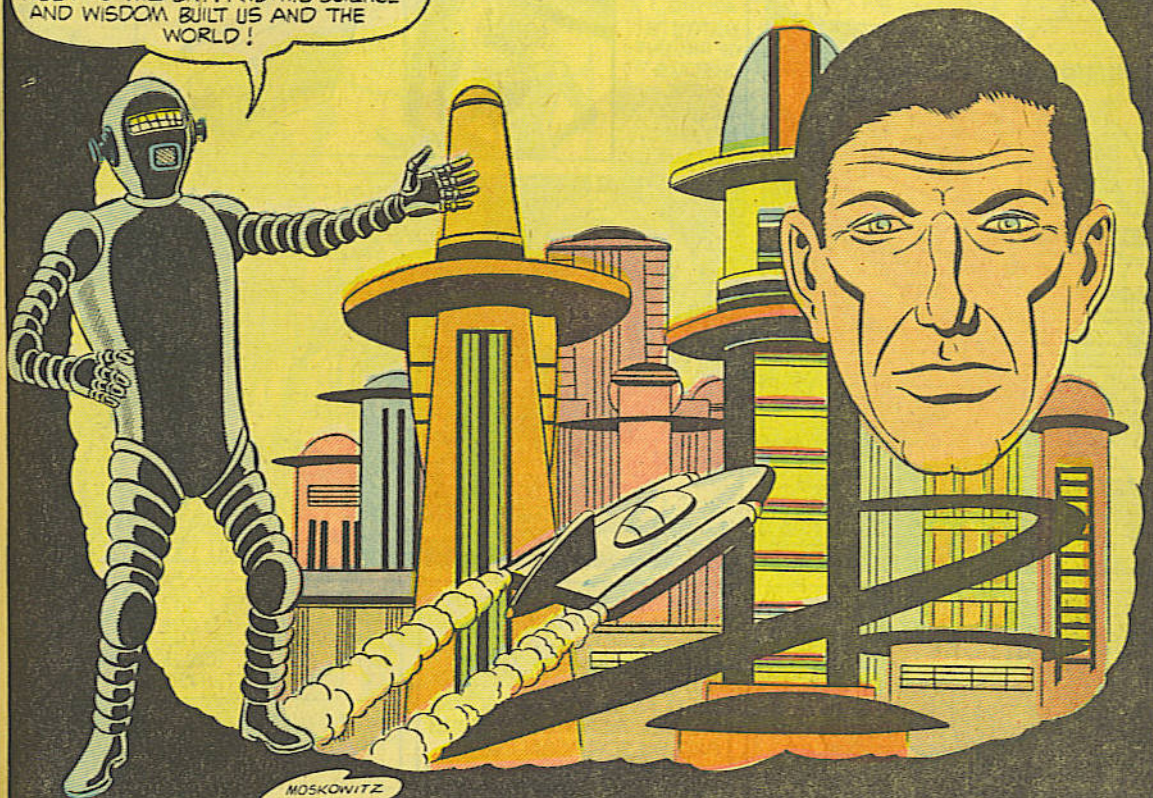
AND--BY A LUCKY BREAK AN EX-CONVICT WHO WANTS TO GO STRAIGHT IS GIVEN ANOTHER CHANCE

SPACE ADVENTURES

VAL TOR WAS A DREAMER. BUT VAL TOR WAS A ROBOT. AND A ROBOT IS BUILT TO SERVE, ONLY---THE MASTERS HAD VANISHED---AND THERE WAS NO ONE LEFT BUT THE NEW HEIR OF THE EARTH---THE ANTS! THIS WAS VAL TOR'S PROBLEM---TO SERVE OR NOT TO SERVE THEM? THE ONLY ANSWER LAY WITH THE VANISHED MASTERS---THE HUMANS---WHOM HE HAD TO FIND IN ORDER TO CLAIM THE---

HERITAGE!

MAN WAS ALL POWERFUL AND ALL-WISE! HIS CITIES MUST HAVE RISEN TO THE SKY, AND HIS SCIENCE AND WISDOM BUILT US AND THE WORLD!



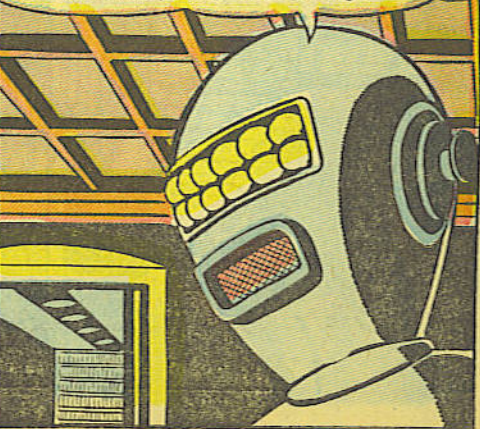
MOSKOWITZ

VAL TOR WAS NO DIFFERENT THAN THE OTHER MILLIONS OF ROBOTS WHO INHABITED THE GIANT CAPITAL CITY IN 4968 A.D. BUT VAL TOR DIFFERED ONLY IN THE FACT THAT HE WAS A HISTORIAN, A DREAMER, WHO LIVED ONLY TO RE-CAPTURE THE BY-GONE ERAS!

MAN---WHAT KIND OF CREATURE WAS HE? WE SUSPECT THAT MAN BUILT US! BUT WHERE ARE THEY NOW? WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM?



WE MULTIPLY EACH TRI-PERIOD, BUT WE DO NOT SEEK--NOR DO WE EXPLORE! WE DO NOT HAVE THE SPARK OF CREATION! WE CANNOT EVOLVE INTO GREATER SPECIES! IN OUR ELECTRO-MAGNETIC CIRCUITS CONTROLLING OUR BRAINS, IS A SHIELD THAT PREVENTS US FROM REACHING THE STARS!



SPACE ADVENTURES

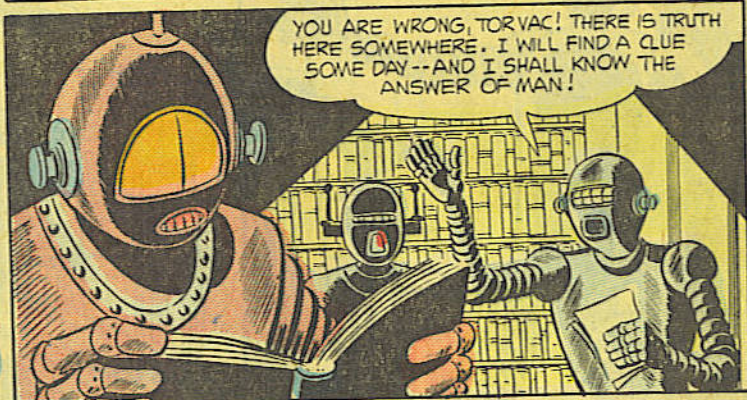
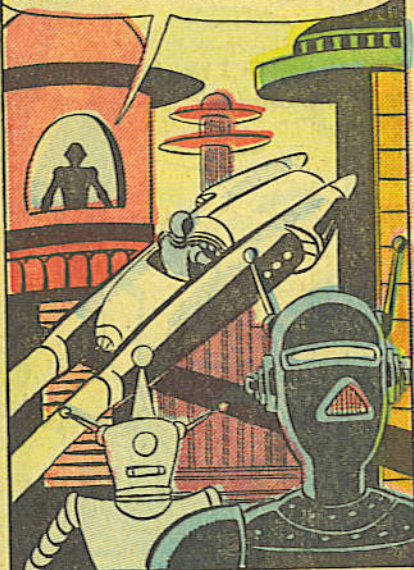
VAL TOR HAD STUDIED AND RE-STUDIED THE PROBLEM FOR DECADES. WHO WAS THIS SEMI-MYTHICAL CREATURE THAT WAS CALLED MAN IN THEIR HISTORY BOOKS? WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO HIM? THE PROBLEM HAD BECOME AN OBSESSION LONG LONG AGO...

OUT THERE IS MY WORLD--THE WORLD OF ROBOTS! WE HAVE EVERYTHING NECESSARY FOR OUR EXISTENCE! BUT MAN--OUR MASTERS--HAVE DISAPPEARED! THE ANCIENT TOMBS LEAVE NO CLUES TO THEIR WHEREABOUTS!

VAL TOR PUZZLED LONG AND LABORED DAY AFTER DAY TO FIND SOME CLUE. BUT HIS EFFORTS WERE FRUITLESS. AND HIS ASSOCIATES AT THE INSTITUTE OF ANCIENT SCROLLS WERE INCLINED TO PITY HIM...

GIVE UP YOUR SEARCH, VAL TOR! YOU ARE SEARCHING IN VAIN!

MAN DOES NOT EXIST! HE IS A FIGMENT OF ONE OF OUR EARLIEST ANCESTORS! WE NO LONGER BELIEVE IN SUCH FAIRY TALES TODAY!



YOU ARE WRONG, TOR VAC! THERE IS TRUTH HERE SOMEWHERE. I WILL FIND A CLUE SOME DAY--AND I SHALL KNOW THE ANSWER OF MAN!

THE IDEA IS ABSURD, VAL TOR. WE WHO ARE MADE OF METAL--ARE THE TRUE MASTERS OF THIS WORLD! WE DOMINATE OUR WORLD--EXCEPT FOR--THE ANTS!

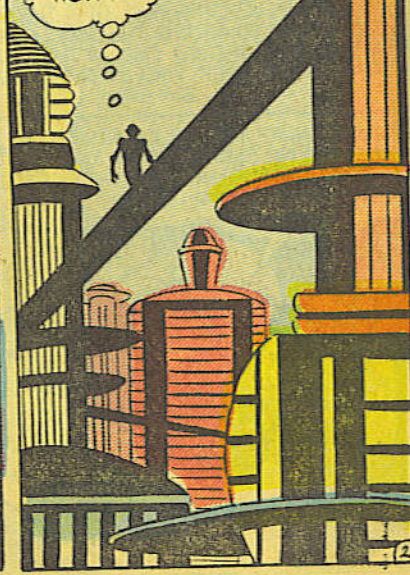
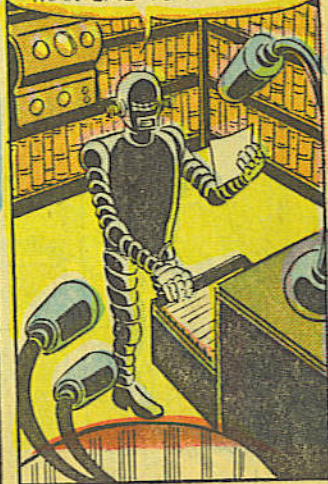
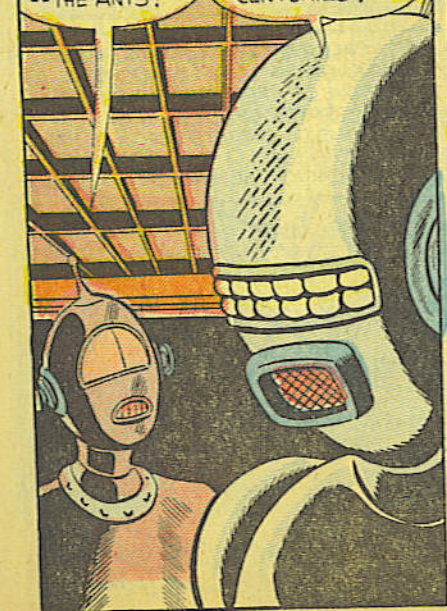
YES--THE ANTS! THEY ARE OUR RIVALS! THEY BUILD, PROPAGATE, CREATE, GROW, EXPAND! AND WE--RETAIN OUR STATUS QUO AS WE HAVE FOR CENTURIES!

YES--THERE WAS THE MEAT OF THE PROBLEM. IF THE ROBOTS, INDEED, WERE THE MASTERS, WHY DID **THEY** NOT GROW, PROPAGATE, EXPAND AS THE ANTS? SO THE ANSWER AGAIN LAY WITH MAN. AND VAL TOR AGAIN PORED OVER HIS RECORDS...

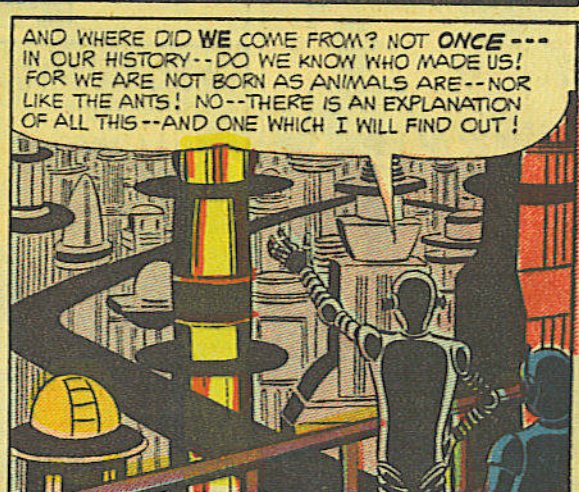
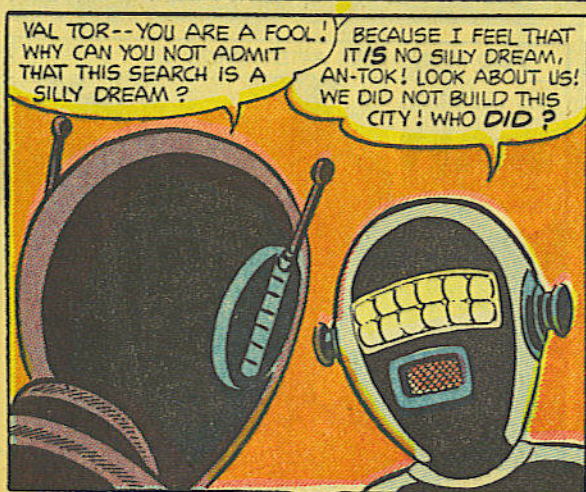
ACCORDING TO LEGEND, THERE WAS ONCE A GREAT CIVILIZATION CALLED MERCA--AND A CAPITAL CITY NYOK BY NAME! I AM **POSITIVE** MAN EXISTED!

VAL TOR LEFT HIS WORK AND WANDERED THROUGH HIS CITY, ALL ABOUT HIM WAS EVIDENCE OF THE GREAT ROBOT MIGHT. BUT VAL TOR SAW NONE OF THESE THINGS...

THERE MUST BE A WAY TO FIND ABSOLUTE PROOF OF MAN'S EXISTENCE! BUT WHERE AND HOW?

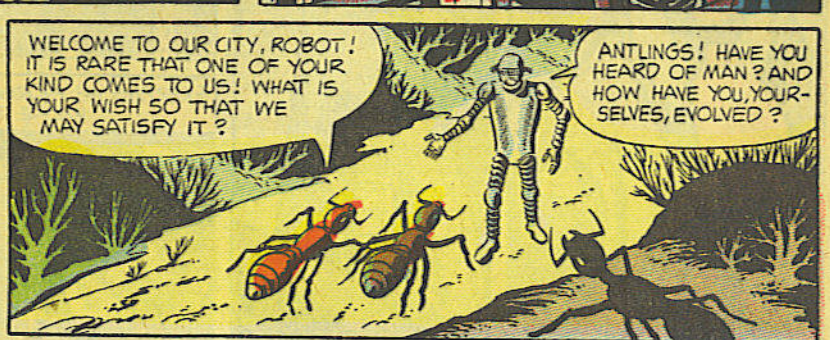
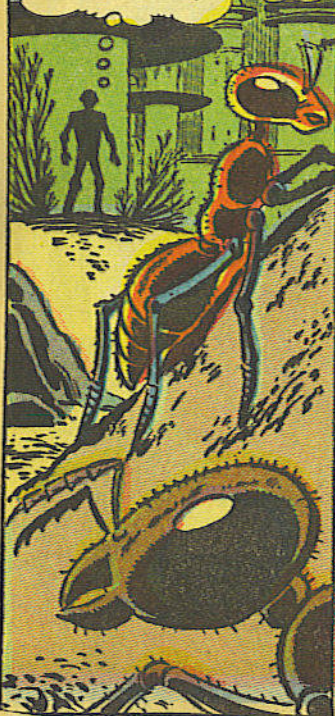


SPACE ADVENTURES



VAL TOR WALKED UNTIL HE LEFT HIS CITY AND APPROACHED A HUGE ANT CIVILIZATION ...

THE ANTS! I DO NOT TRUST THEM! THEY DO NOT AROUSE IN MY ELECTRICAL CIRCUITS A FEELING OF OBEDIENCE! AND YET--THEY ARE EQUALLY AS MIGHTY AS WE!



YES--WE HAVE HEARD OF MAN! BUT MAN--OUR OWN LEGENDS SAY---TOWERED ABOVE US! WE HAVE NO OTHER REPORTS. WE EVOLVED FROM TINY ANCESTORS. A CHANGE IN ATMOSPHERIC RADIATION PRODUCED A MUTATIVE TRANSFORMATION IN US TO OUR PRESENT FORM!



FOR TEN THOUSAND DECADES WE CONTINUED TO CHANGE AND TO BUILD. WE SEEK TO LIVE IN PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP WITH YOUR KIND! WE WISH ONLY TO HAVE WISDOM AND HAPPINESS!



SPACE ADVENTURES

THAT WE DO NOT KNOW. BUT YOUR RACE AND MINE DOMINATE EARTH NOW! WILL YOU NOT WORK WITH US TO UNLOCK THE GREAT SECRETS OF LIFE AND THE UNIVERSE!

NO! OUR PURPOSE IS TO SERVE! BUT I KNOW THAT IT IS NOT TO SERVE YOU! I MUST CONTINUE MY SEARCH! FAREWELL!

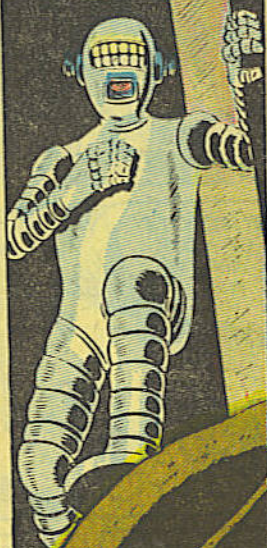
SO VAL TOR TRAVELED OVER THE GLOBE, SEARCHING FOR SOME SIGN OF MAN. THEN ONE DAY, MANY MONTHS LATER, IN AN UNDERGROUND GROTTO FAR FROM HIS CITY...

A LABYRINTH — EXTENDING DEEP INTO THE BOWELS OF THE EARTH! WHAT STRANGE WONDER HAVE I DISCOVERED?



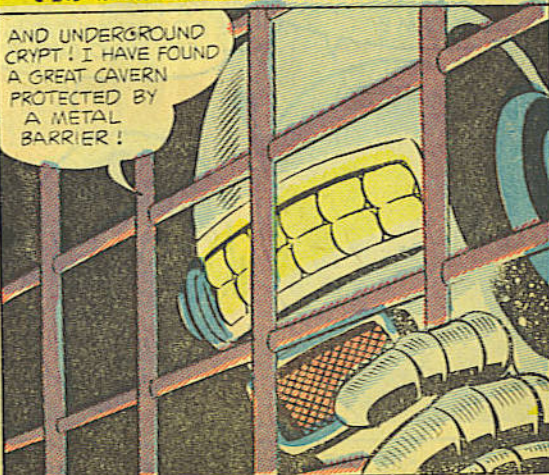
VAL TOR HURRIED INTO THE CONFINES OF THE GROTTO...

THIS PASSAGEWAY HAS BEEN ARTIFICIALLY MADE. ITS WALLS ARE TOO SMOOTH FOR MERE NATURAL PATTERN! I MUST GO DEEPER!

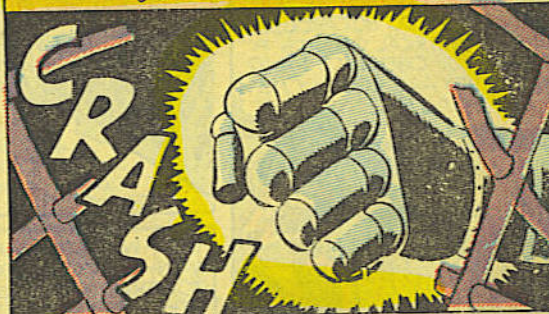


AND MANY HOURS AFTERWARDS...

AND UNDERGROUND CRYPT! I HAVE FOUND A GREAT CAVERN PROTECTED BY A METAL BARRIER!

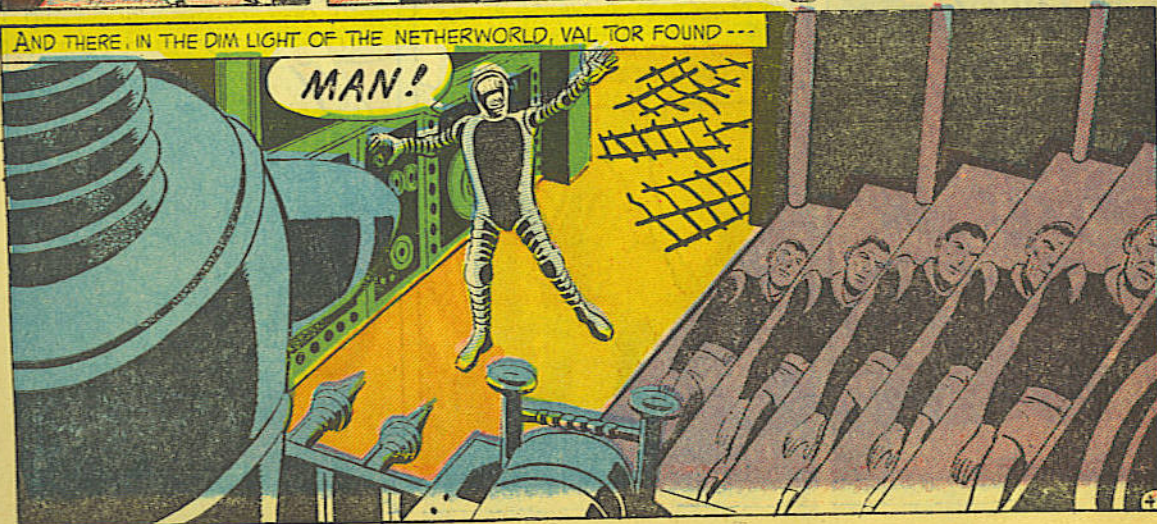


EXERTING HIS ENORMOUS ROBOTIC STRENGTH, VAL TOR BROKE THROUGH!



AND THERE, IN THE DIM LIGHT OF THE NETHERWORLD, VAL TOR FOUND---

MAN!



SPACE ADVENTURES

QUICKLY GLIDING TOWARDS THE MASTER CONTROL BOARD WHICH VALTOR SOMEHOW INSTINCTIVELY KNEW WAS THE LEVER THAT WOULD ACTIVATE THE NEAREST TIER, HE PULLED DOWN HARD!

AT LAST! NOW I WILL FACE MAN!

SCREE

THE WHINE OF HIDDEN DYNAMOS---AND THE GRIND OF GEARS INTER-MESHED EERILY THROUGH THE SILENT CORRIDOR. SUDDENLY--A BLAST OF RAYS FROM ABOVE AND A WASH OF FLUID FLOWED OVER THE MAN'S FACE...

HE STIRS!

SSSSZZZZ

UGHH... WHERE... AM I?

HE IS ALIVE... **ALIVE!!**

TWO HOURS LATER, THE FRAGILE TWO-LEGGED CREATURE CALLED MAN, WAS STRONG ENOUGH TO STAND AND BE LED AROUND THE CORRIDOR BY VALTOR...

ONLY I BELIEVED IN YOU, MASTER! ONLY I KNEW THAT MAN COULD NOT BE DEAD!

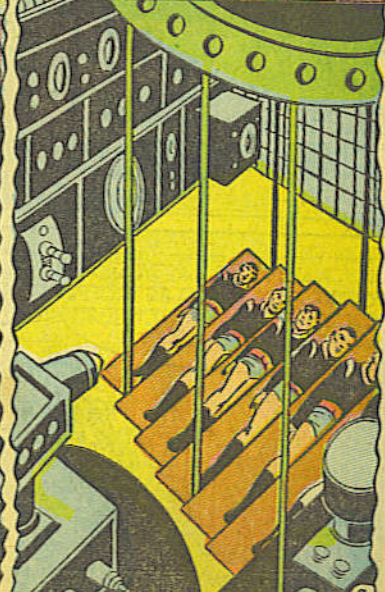
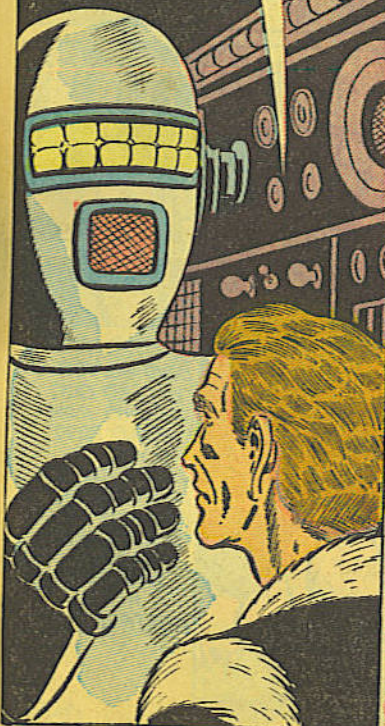
YOU'RE ONE OF THE ROBOTS WE BUILT BEFORE WE WENT UNDERGROUND! GOOD! THERE SHOULD BE MILLIONS OF YOUR KIND NOW--ALL READY TO HELP US RE-BUILD NOW!

"IN OUR TIME, THERE CAME TO BE A GREAT WAR BETWEEN TWO GLOBAL NATIONS--A WAR THAT EXTENDED INTO THE VERY HEAVENS ITSELF!"

BLAM

"IN TIME BOTH NATIONS DESTROYED EACH OTHER. CIVILIZATION FELL--AND THE PITIFUL REMNANTS INTO THE UNDERGROUND, LEAVING THE ROBOTS TO DOMINATE THE WORLD UNTIL THEY RETURNED!"

"WE PLACED OURSELVES UNDER A STATE OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION TO BE AWAKENED BY INTELLIGENT CREATURES--OUR ROBOTS--WHEN THE TIME WAS RIFE!"



SPACE ADVENTURES

AS SOON AS I GAIN STRENGTH I'LL ACTIVATE THE OTHER MASTER CONTROLS! WE WILL MASTER EVERYTHING ON EARTH! NO LONGER WILL THERE BE ANY POWER TO OPPOSE US! AND IF THEY DO, WE'LL KILL!

KILL? I DO NOT KNOW THE MEANING OF THIS WORD?

KILL! TO DESTROY! TO BE MASTERS OF ALL EXISTENCE! TELL ME--WHAT IS THE EARTH LIKE NOW!

WE EXIST ON A CO-LEVEL WITH THE ANTS! THEY HAVE THEIR OWN CIVILIZATION AND ARE BUILDING SITES TO TAKE THEM TO THE STARS!

THE ANTS! HA, HA...WHAT A JOKE! WE'LL CRUSH THEM! WE'LL TAKE OVER JUST AS WE DID BEFORE! WE'LL MAKE THEM SLAVES OR PULVERIZE THEM IF THEY DEFEY US!

WAR?
KILL?
DESTROY?

YES! AND YOU WILL SERVE US OF COURSE! THIS IS OUR PROPER --UGH-HH...MY--HEART! OUR --PROPER HERITAGE!

AG-HHHH!

MAN HAS DIED! THE STRAIN OF AWAKENING, AND THE ANGER THAT WAS HIS, WAS TOO MUCH FOR HIM!

AND SUDDENLY --- THAT REALIZATION GAVE HIM A SURGE OF HOPE. FOR MAN NOW COULD NO LONGER TALK OF WAR, KILLING, DESTROYING.

IT IS BEST THAT MAN SLEEPS! HE SHOULD NOT RETURN TO OUR ERA YET!

MAN WILL ONLY BRING THE SEEDS OF WAR AGAIN TO THIS PLANET! THE GREAT AND WISE CIVILIZATION OF THE ANTS WOULD BE STOPPED! I HAVE BEEN WRONG ABOUT MAN! IT IS THE ANTS WE MUST SERVE!

AND VAL TOR WALKED OUT, KNOWING MAN WOULD REST IN PEACE-- REST ALONE-- SO THAT THE UNIVERSE COULD BE CONQUERED THROUGH-- WISDOM, NOT DESTRUCTION!